GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1026
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Use of Plastic
Bidhuri Shri Ramesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any norms for manufacturing and use of biodegradable and non biodegradable plastics in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether indiscriminate use of plastic has been a major reason for environmental imbalance in the country; and
(d) if so, the corrective steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b): The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified by the Government regulate manufacturing, sale and use of carry bags made from compostable plastic, virgin plastic and recycled plastic, and the plastic sheet or like. The manufacturing and use of plastic sheet and carry bags of thickness less than 50 microns is prohibited. Producers, recyclers and manufacturers of plastic carry bags or multilayered packaging are required to obtain prior registration from concerned State Pollution Control Board or the Pollution Control Committee of the Union Territory. The manufacture and use of non-recyclable multilayered plastic is required to be phased out in two years time from the date of notification of the Rules. As per the rules, each plastic carry bag made is required to have the name, certificate number, etc. printed on it.

In addition, these Rules provide for ways and means to minimize plastic waste generation, adoption of extended producer responsibility by the producers, importers and brand owners for collection of waste generated from their products involving State Urban Development Departments, and for recycling/utilization of plastic waste in road construction, energy recovery, etc.

As per the Rules, the compostable plastic of carry bags is required to conform to the standards of Bureau of Indian Standards. The manufacturer or seller of compostable plastic carry bags is required to obtain a certificate from the Central Pollution Control Board before marketing or selling. Determination of the degree of degradability and degree of disintegration of compostable plastic material has to be as per the Indian standards listed under the Rules.

(c) & (d): Plastic waste and discarded plastic material if not collected systematically may choke drainage system and create unhygienic conditions. Animals ingest plastic bags and/or sheets with the discarded food leading to their illness and sometimes death. Plastic waste, when disposed of on soil, reduces recharging of ground water aquifers and, when disposed of in landfill sites, causes leaching into the soil and ground water. The Rules notified by the Government contain enabling provisions to minimize plastic waste generation and setting up of sustainable plastic waste management system. The States/ Union Territories have been asked to ensure implementation of the Rules.
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